

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method comprising:

identifying a preference;

selecting a content item based on the preference;

5       storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache;

receiving a request for the content item;

streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage  
cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request;

producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item;

10      and

seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the  
content item to an entire segment of the content item.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the preference is associated with a

15      user.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the preference includes a playlist.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the resultant stream mirrors the

20      entire segment of the content.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising identifying a user

associated with the preference.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data.
- 5 7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting the entire segment of the content to a stream buffer in response to the request.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the transmitting the entire segment of the content occurs simultaneously with streaming the initial portion.

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9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the seamlessly transitioning occurs in real-time.
- 15 10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising presenting the resultant stream beginning with the initial portion and subsequently followed by a portion of the entire segment.

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11. A system comprising:
  - means for identifying a preference;
  - 20 means for selecting a content item based on the preference;
  - means for storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache;
  - means for receiving a request for the content item;

means for streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request;

means for producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the content item; and

5 means for seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item.

12. A method comprising:

storing an initial portion a selected content item in a temporary storage

10 cache;

streaming the initial portion of the selected content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer;

simultaneously loading an entire segment of the selected content item to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion;

15 producing a resultant stream comprising the initial portion of the selected content item; and

seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to the entire segment of the content item.

20 13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising identifying a preference.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the content is selected from a plurality of content in response, in part, to the preference.
15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the transitioning occurs in real-time.
16. The method according to claim 12, further comprising requesting the content.
- 10 17. The method according to claim 12, wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data.
18. The method according to claim 12, further comprising displaying the resultant stream.
- 15 19. A system comprising:
  - means for storing an initial portion a selected content item in a temporary storage cache;
  - means for streaming the initial portion of the selected content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer;
  - means for simultaneously loading an entire segment of the selected content item to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion;
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means for producing a resultant stream comprising the initial portion of the selected content item; and

means for seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to the entire segment of the content item.

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20. A system comprising:

a media server configured for storing an entire segment of content;

a client device configured for storing an initial portion of the content wherein the client device is configured to display the content by streaming a resultant stream from the initial portion of the content while simultaneously receiving the entire segment of the content and seamlessly substituting the entire segment of the content for the initial portion.

10 21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the client device is configured to

15 store the initial portion of the content prior to a request for the content.

22. The system according to claim 20, wherein the client device is configured to receive the entire segment subsequent to a request for the content.

20 23. The system according to claim 20, wherein the client device further comprises a preference data module configured for storing information relating to the content.

24. The system according to claim 20, wherein the client device further comprises a temporary storage cache configured for storing the initial portion of the content.

5 25. The system according to claim 20, wherein the client device further comprises a stream buffer configured for receiving the entire segment of the content.

10 26. The system according to claim 20, wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data.

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